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JN Hall raided, 115 arrested

100 injured as police, students clash in DU

Staff Correspondent

More than 100 students were injured, 26 of them seriously when the pro-Awami League Chhatra League activists and police clashed on the Dhaka University campus on Wednesday. Of the injured, 26 were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Four of the 26 admitted to the hospital had bullet wounds. Police arrested 115 students from Jagannath Hall and in front of the Vice-Chancellor's residence.

Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of Awami League claimed that a student Foton Chandra Sutra Dhar was killed but police denied it and said that he was detained at Ramna Thana with injuries.

Angry students, mostly members of Bangladesh Chhatra League protesting the police actions set ablaze four private vehicles and damaged several others in and around Dhaka University.

Police raided Jagannath Hall, ransacked at least 30 rooms and indiscriminately beat up students inside the hall. Seventy students were arrested from inside Jagannath Hall.

The incident on the Dhaka University campus took place when Bangladesh Chhatra League with a big procession went to Bangla Academy gate to protest the visit of the Prime Minister for the inauguration of Ekushey Book Fair scheduled

to be held today (Thursday).

As the procession reached the Academy gate to hoist the black flag, there was sudden burst of fire from the direction of Ramna Park. Following the gun fire, the riot police deployed around the Bangla Academy chased the Chhatra League processionists allegedly firing from the shot guns. The processionists retreated and dispersed following the police fire. Retreating students allegedly fired gun shots at the police.

At one stage the students took shelter at Jagannath Hall. Police and students exchange gun shots at TSC area from 1.15 p.m. to 2.15 p.m. During the clashes, police lobbed at least 100 tear gas shells and fired 350 gun shots. The clash spread to Shamsunahar Hall, Rokeya Hall and Jagannath Hall areas.

When police were chasing the students to Jagannath Hall, paramilitary BDR dug in around the hall. At one stage police broke the locked gate of the hall and entered it. Police ransacked 30 rooms of the hall and

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arrested 70 students. Before the arrest police reportedly beat up the students with rifle butts inside their rooms. A plain clothed police hit Foton Chandra Sutra Dhar in the head with rifle butt in his room No. 310.

Foton Chandra Sutra Dhar is the third year student of Physics Department.

He was handcuffed and dragged to the waiting police vehicle. During the raid police fired shots which caused bullet wound in the leg of a student Bidhan Chandra Das. When the Provost of the hall Prof. Jagadish Chandra Sukla Das and other house tutors protested the police action and demanded release of the arrested students, some police officers asked them to leave the area. Police left the hall around 3-30 p.m.

After that departure of the police, the Provost of Jagannath hall with some students rushed to the VC's residence and informed him of the incident. Some angry students tried to assault the Vice-Chancellor but they were prevented by the teachers. The provost and the house tutors of Jagannath Hall resigned in protest against the police action.

Immediately after that more than 1000 students belonging to Chhatra League assembled in front of the residence of the Vice-Chancellor. When Chhatra League General Secretary Ishaq Ali Khan Panna was addressing the students, several hundred police surrounded the students and resorted to indiscriminate

lathicharge causing injuries to at least 50 students. At least 20 students were injured in the police attack in front of the VC's residence.

Another group of Chhatra League activists clashed with the police near the central Shaheed Minar. A fierce clash took place there between police and the students.

After the Jagannath Hall police raided Salimullah Hall and arrested seven students from there. Police also raided Sgt. Zahurul Huq Hall at 9.15 p.m. A group of Chhatra League activists ransacked some rooms belonging to Chhatra Dal members and burned the banner.

Tension has been prevailing on the campus following the incident. A large number of police and BDR has been deployed at different points of the campus. Movement of all kinds of vehicle has been stopped inside the campus.